

What is claimed is:

1. A napped leather-like sheet material wherein a surface portion of one or both napped faces thereof is provided with (1) at least one silk protein substance selected from the group consisting of silk proteins and partial hydrolyzates of silk proteins and (2) a softening agent.

2. The napped leather-like sheet material as claimed in Claim 1, wherein a portion free of the silk protein substance and softening agent occurs in a middle portion of the sheet in a direction of thickness.

3. The napped leather-like sheet material as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the silk protein substance comprises at least one substance selected from the group consisting of silk fibroin solubilized in water and water-soluble partial hydrolyzates of silk fibroin.

4. The napped leather-like sheet material as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the silk protein substance comprises at least one substance selected from the group consisting of silk fibroin solubilized in water and water-soluble partial hydrolyzates of silk fibroin.

5. The napped leather-like sheet material as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the ratio by mass of the silk protein substance to the softening agent, applied to the napped leather-like sheet material, is 20:80 to 70:30.

6. The napped leather-like sheet material as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the ratio by mass of the silk protein substance to the softening agent, applied to the napped leather-like sheet material, is 20:80 to 70:30.

7. The napped leather-like sheet material as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the ratio by mass of the silk protein substance to the softening agent, applied to the napped leather-like sheet material, is 20:80 to 70:30.

8. The napped leather-like sheet material as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the ratio by mass of the silk protein substance to the softening agent, applied to the napped leather-like

sheet material, is 20:80 to 70:30.

9. The napped leather-like sheet material as claimed in Claim 1, wherein, based on the basis weight (A) (g/m^2) of the napped leather-like sheet material before being provided with the silk protein substance and softening agent, the silk protein substance is applied in an amount of 0.0005A to 0.025A (g/m^2) and the softening agent in an amount of 0.001A to 0.1A (g/m^2).

10. The napped leather-like sheet material as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the nap-forming fibers comprise ultrafine fibers, which ultrafine fibers comprise entangled nonwoven fabric containing an elastomer therein.

11. The napped leather-like sheet material as claimed in Claims 10, wherein the ultrafine fibers are obtained by removing a sea component from fibers having a sea-island structure as obtained by the mixed spinning or composite spinning technique and wherein the ultrafine fibers are substantially free from adhesion to the elastomer in the napped leather-like sheet material.

12. The napped leather-like sheet material as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the ultrafine fibers have a single fiber fineness of not more than 0.5 decitex.

13. The napped leather-like sheet material as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the ratio by mass of the ultrafine fibers to the elastomer is 30/70 to 95/5.

14. The napped leather-like sheet material as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the softening agent is a silicone softening agent.

15. The napped leather-like sheet material as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the softening agent is a polyamide softening agent.

16. A method of producing napped leather-like sheet materials which comprises applying (a) a liquid containing (1) a silk protein substance selected from the group consisting of silk

proteins and partial hydrolyzates of silk proteins, and (2) a softening agent, or (b) applying a liquid containing said silk protein substance and a liquid containing a softening agent simultaneously or separately, to the napped surface(s) of a napped leather-like sheet material comprising an entangled nonwoven fabric comprising ultrafine fibers and an elastomer contained therein and having a nap made of ultrafine fibers on one or both sides thereof.

17. The method of producing napped leather-like sheet materials as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the applying is carried out by a gravure printing technique or spraying technique.

18. An article of clothing produced from a napped leather-like sheet material as claimed in Claim 1.

19. An article of clothing produced from a napped leather-like sheet material as claimed in Claim 2.

20. An article of clothing produced from a napped leather-like sheet material as claimed in Claim 3.